

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below. A complete listing of all pending claims is presented.

1. (Amended) A semiconductor [m mory] memory device comprising:

an encoding means for encoding input data according to a predetermined error correction encoding system;

a comparing means for comparing said input data and a predetermined status data;

a selecting means for selecting either of said [input] predetermined status data or encoded data output from said encoding means in accordance with a comparison result of said comparing means; and

a nonvolatile memory for storing data selected by said selecting means,

wherein said nonvolatile memory holds said status data in a predetermined initialization state.

2. (Original) A semiconductor memory device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile memory holds said status data in an erasure state.

3. (Original) A semiconductor memory device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said selecting means selects said status data when said input data coincides with said status data and selects said encoded data output from said encoding means when said input data does not coincide with said status data.

4. (Amended) A semiconductor memory device comprising:

a decoding [m ans] means for decoding data read from a nonvolatile memory according to a [pr determined] predetermined error correction decoding system;

a comparing means for comparing data input to said decoding means and predetermined status data; and

a selecting means for selecting either of said status data or decoded data output from said decoding means in accordance with a comparison result of said comparing means,

wherein said nonvolatile memory holds said status data in a predetermined initialization state.

5. (Amended) A semiconductor memory device as set forth in claim [3] 4, wherein said selecting means selects said status data when said read data coincides with said status data and selects said decoded data when said read data does not coincide with said status data.

6. (Amended) A semiconductor memory device for error correction encoding/decoding input/output data, comprising:

an encoding means for encoding input data according to a predetermined error correction encoding system;

a comparing means for comparing said input data and predetermined status data;

a first [s lecting] selecting means for selecting either of said [input] status data or [ncod d] encoded data output from said encoding means in accordance with a comparison result of said comparing means;

a nonvolatile memory for storing data selected by said selecting means;

a decoding means for decoding data read from said nonvolatile memory according to a predetermined error correction decoding system;

[a] the comparing means for comparing [the decoded] data [output by] input to said decoding means and said status data; and

a second selecting means for selecting either of said status data or said decoded data in accordance with the comparison result of said comparing means,

wherein said nonvolatile memory holds said status data in a predetermined initialization state.

7. (Original) A semiconductor memory device as set forth in claim 6, wherein said nonvolatile memory holds said status data in an erasure state.